

R.

M. MOORE, PROPRIETOR.

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of the crater, the lake burst its shelly barriers at two points, and rolled off in deep and broad rivers, covering a vast area around, and including the place where we had stood. Still, had the eruption taken place while we were on the spot, we might have escaped, as this igneous fusion is so viscous and of such great consistency as to move very slowly, except when rushing down hill.

—*Anthony Trowler.*

A Permanent Ministry.

The following extract is from a sermon lately preached by Rev. Dr. Bates of Dudley, at the occasion of his presence in Northampton. We call attention to the thoughts here expressed, and of great practical interest, as the result of more particular notice and a wider circulation than

I remark, *thirdly*, that from the views taken of our subject, we may discover the manner in which the influence of the Word of God is to be secured. If much of the efficacy of preaching depends on the mutual affection and confidence between a preacher and his hearers, growing out of the pastoral relation; then, the more intimate the personal relation becomes, the better both for minister and people, and the greater the influence a pious and thoughtful educated minister may exert in the cause of Christ. Besides, permanency of residence affords opportunity for study and intellectual improvement, which is necessary to the success of a minister of a roving disposition and wandering habits. In order, like a good householder, to bring out of his treasure, "things both new and old," and in saying up is better than saying down, he must be continually gathering up the things that are cast out of the door of residence? How can he give himself to "reading, meditation and prayer," without

It is true, short settlements in the ministry, such as are prescribed by some ecclesiastical organizations, and encouraged and sanctioned by others, seem to possess some advantages; but they are evidently connected with greater disadvantages, both to ministers and people; producing in the former barrenness of mind and instability of character, and in the latter, "itching ears, idle curiosity, and ultimately divisions, disputings and often pernicious heresies. It is true, we likewise admit, that even itinerant preaching may produce temporary good effects.

fects; and in some cases, it seems necessary to prepare the way for the settlement of ministers and the permanent influence of stated preaching. Evangelists, therefore, should be occasionally sent forth, to "stir up the brethren," and gather churches in

the waste places of Zion, and in heathen lands. But when this is done, when converts are made and gathered into churches, permanent ministry must be secured, or the labors of evangelists and itinerant preachers will soon be lost. Indeed, such occasional preaching and superficial lecturing as

is often conducted among us, by incompetent and sometimes unprincipled persons, to destroy religious institutions, than to build them up, and secure permanent salutary effects. And where there is not already an established ministry, or where it does not soon follow

such excitements and even apparent reformations, as are produced by the best itinerant preaching and occasional lecturing, are a value ephemeral, evanescent, and of little value to the cause of pure religion, and to the peace, order and happiness of society.

Notwithstanding the admissions which we have made, therefore, the proposition still remains true, that the ministry even of the most learned and pious man, to answer the purpose of its appointment, in the highest degree, must be a stated, permanent ministry. It was evidently designed "in

wisdom of God," that this should be the condition of the gospel ministry, wherever converts should be made and churches established. Hence the apostle Paul directs Timothy to ordain elders, or stated ministers, pastors and teachers, in every place. A

experience, in every age and in every country, where the experiment has been made, has shown the wisdom of this arrangement.

In connection with the above extract from Dr. B. we publish the following article from the New England Puritan. It is the same report which has already been published in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*.

appeared in the Hartford Herald and New York Evangelist, and sets forth a principle which deeply concerns all churches and ministers. We do not suppose it to be adopted as an invariable rule, that no pastor ever change his field of labor, and yet, to prevent this tyrannical system which has been in practice for centuries, there is need of a radically increased

churches and pastors come to know, that dismissals are not, and will not be sanctioned for common causes, only for the "weightiest reasons," they will be less rest motives to a change will be less operative, and existing disagreements will be borne with more patience, and

Messrs. Editors:—In behalf of many members of the North Consociation of Litchfield Co., Ct., I request the insertion in the

ritan of the following decision of that board at their meeting in Salisbury, on the 1st of March. It is extensively known that Rev. Mr. Reid of that place received, a short time since, an invitation from the Congregational Church and Society in Boston, to visit that city, to become their

He and his people referred the question of his dismission to the ecclesiastical body which, according to the constitution of the churches, has jurisdiction in such cases; their decision was unanimously in the affirmative, for the reasons which are briefly set

"The consociation, after patiently hearing and considering the papers and arguments submitted by Mr. Reid and the church and society of Salisbury, have come to the following conclusion:

"We believe that the pastoral relation when harmonious and productive of blessing ought not to be dissolved but for the weightiest reasons; and that none but the most extraordinary circumstances can justify the church in seeking to obtain the pastoral services of a minister engaged in useful labor."

are happy to learn that Mr. Reid has enjoyed during the whole of his ministry, in a remarkable degree, the affection and confidence of his people; nor do we believe sufficient grounds are presented, in the from Bowdoin street Church for sum-

him from his flock. But we desire to see that the course of Mr. Reid, in seeking the counsel of his brethren, and in referring an important question to the decision of the body, has been fair and upright; and that he stands before us, and his people, as

I would only add, that the principles which the consociation acted were stated in a pastoral letter addressed to churches under their care about four

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M. F. HANSON, M. D.
EDWARD H. ROSS.

Feb. 19.

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of him and his success. Some people seem to have a vision people ought to examine facts, and not trust to vicious and malignant reports of enemies. By calling him to be cured, they will find him kind, careful, sensitive, at 14 Sumner street.

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ly. Sept 11

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